



# REVIEWS

## BOOKS

Reviewed by Ruth Parnell

### SECRETS OF THE ANCIENT INCAS: A Modern Approach to Ancient Ritual and Practice

by Michael Peter Langevin

New Page Books, USA, 2002

ISBN 1-56414-602-2 (218pp tpb)

Availability: New Page Books/The Career Press website, <http://newpagebooks.com>

As a college student in 1973, Michael Peter Langevin made his first sacred journey to Peru, where on Machu Picchu he communed with the mythical gods of the Incas and made a promise to do what he could to keep their ancient teachings alive. And this he has done in many ways through his role as publisher/editor-in-chief of *Magical Blend* magazine for 20 years, as adoptive parent with his wife of two children of Inca descent, and now in writing this book, *Secrets of the Ancient Incas*.

Langevin presents a travelogue on several levels, sharing the stories of his personal journey into the Inca world of nature and spirit as well as the joys of interacting with a big-hearted people and their rich customs and culture. In 2001, he and his family spent many months in Peru and Bolivia, reconnecting with the history, wisdom and sacred places of the Inca people; and here he retraces those steps for our benefit.

In describing how to live the Incan life, he opens our eyes to a different way of seeing the world. Readers familiar with other shamanic traditions will note some similarities in, say, the importance of focusing intent, finding nature spirit guides and allies

and accessing other dimensions. Langevin introduces us to some of the Inca rituals and ceremonial tools used in connecting with the spirit world, and gives an overview of Inca dreaming and astral travelling techniques. He describes the pantheon of Inca gods as well as the qualities we need if we want to climb the "archetypical Inca trail"—qualities such as heart, enthusiasm, passion, imagination and creativity.

Langevin says we can learn much from the Quechuen, the Incas' descendants, because of their capacity for love and caring despite centuries of pain and suffering since the Spanish conquest. His book is a heartfelt tribute to the Incas' great magical tradition and is a gift for those on the spiritual path.

### THE TEMPLAR TREASURE AT GISORS by Jean Markale

Inner Traditions, USA, 2003 (1st pub. in

French by Editions Pygmalion, 1986)

ISBN 0-89281-972-3 (274pp tpb)

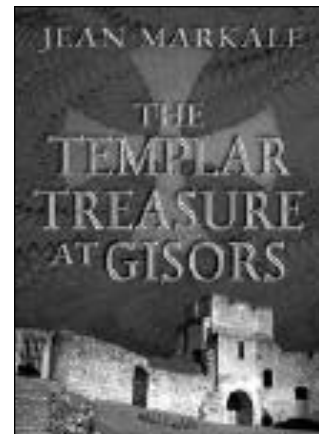
Availability: Inner Traditions website, <http://www.innertraditions.com>

Much speculation surrounds the fate of the fabled treasure of the Knights Templar following the disbanding of the Order and confiscation of its property by the French king Philip the Fair in 1307. A variety of locations in France as well as in Scotland, Switzerland, an island in the Baltic Sea and the New World have been touted as the hiding place of the treasure. However, Jean Markale, a French historian specialising in pre-Christian and mediaeval culture and spirituality, concludes that, if such a treasure existed, it never left France.

As part of his treasure hunt, Markale goes on a pilgrimage through Normandy, highlighting key historical events and artefacts

before focusing his attention on the mediaeval city of Gisors, 65 miles northwest of Paris, and the Castle of Gisors, which, from 1188, allegedly housed the infamous Priory of Sion. Its largely unexplored, rubble-filled subterranean corridors are very likely the repository of Templar secrets, if not the famed treasure. In 1962, objects and documents were found in the passageways and chambers underneath the town of Gisors, and a purportedly Vatican-sourced document surfaced, connecting the honeycombed Gisors underground world with the possible existence of a treasure, though the legends have prevailed for centuries.

Jean Markale is the author of more than 40 books. This one was first published in 1986 in French as *Gisors et L'Enigme des Templiers*, and this Inner Traditions edition is a new English translation. Drawing on original source documents, Markale sets the record straight on Knights Templar history, beliefs and rituals, yet adding to the intrigue and drawing some surprising conclusions.



# REVIEWS



## SACRED PLACES, NORTH AMERICA: 108 Destinations

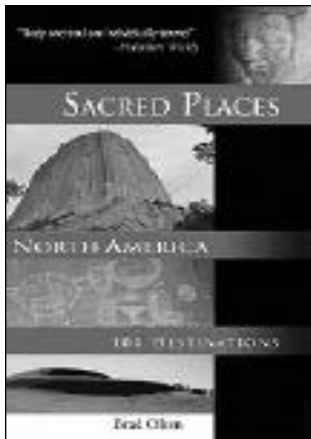
by Brad Olsen

Consortium of Collective Consciousness,  
USA, 2003

ISBN 1-888729-09-0 (302pp tpb)

Availability: Independent Publishers  
Group website, <http://www.ipgbook.com>;  
or website <http://www.bradolsen.com>

For his latest travel guide, explorer and peace activist Brad Olsen focuses on a selection of 108 sacred places in North America, including Hawai'i. These locations have a wealth of anthropological, archaeological and spiritual significance and show the existence, often co-existence, of a number of cultures over the millennia.



The discovery in 1996 of the so-called Kennewick Man—a skeleton of Caucasian origin—in the petroglyph-covered Columbia River Gorge, Washington state, and its radiocarbon dating to at least 9,000 years old puts conventional understanding of North American history into a tailspin. The bee-

hive-design stone chambers dotted through the New England countryside could have been built by Scottish Culdees a thousand years ago, perhaps on top of existing chambers built by seafaring Celts and Phoenicians 2,000 years before that.

*Sacred Places North America* is a captivating travelogue that explores the rich cultural, spiritual landscape through all points of the compass. It's well illustrated with b&w photos as well as charmingly hand-drawn diagrams and maps, and also includes "getting there" details for travellers. There are sacred mountains and valleys in California, within which lost civilisations are believed to exist, clifftop dwellings of the Anasazi, pyramids of the Mississippian culture, the geometrically arranged, astronomically aligned earthen mounds and serpent mounds of Ohio, and much more. Some unexpected modern places of pilgrimage are included, like Area 51 and Elvis Presley's Graceland!

In drawing attention to well-known and little-known sacred sites, Olsen clears up many misconceptions upon which mainstream American prehistory is based.

## NUTRITION RULES! Guidelines from the Master Consultants by Graeme Sait

Soil Therapy Pty Ltd, Australia, 2003

ISBN 0-9750508-0-X (308pp tpb)

Availability: Soil Therapy Pty Ltd, PO Box

338, Eumundi, Queensland, Australia, tel

+61 (0)7 5472 9900, website

<http://www.nutri-tech.com.au>

Today's epidemic of chronic and degenerative diseases is testimony to what we become when we ignore the critical link between soil health and human health, notes

Graeme Sait in his introduction to *Nutrition Rules!* Graeme is an Australian-based agriculture consultant who is passionate about ecologically sustainable farming practices. Through the company he co-founded, Nutri-Tech Solutions, he has developed a range of biological agricultural products to promote healthy soil and plant growth.

Such is Graeme's conviction that over the last five years he has conducted a series of inspirational interviews with 21 key figures in the "new agriculture" movement. While some of these have been published separately before (e.g., the interview with Dr Phil Callahan on paramagnetism appeared in NEXUS 10/02 and *Acres, Australia*, along with other interviews), this is the first time they've appeared in the one compilation.

The interviews cover in-depth details on mineral and microbe management in soil health, energy management in plant, animal and soil health, as well as human health. Among the luminaries are Charles Walters, eco-farmer and founder of *Acres, USA*, Bruce Tainio, who discovered that plant sap pH is another indicator of plant health, quantum agriculture exponent Hugh Lovel, medical agronomist Dr Arden Andersen, holistic livestock scientist Jerry Brunetti, and Dr Patrick Flanagan, discoverer of the silica hydride molecule.

The message running through these interviews is that it is imperative that we work *with*, not against, nature. Graeme sums it up by saying that the ultimate goal for soil, microbes, plants, animals and humans is peak nutrition. If you haven't discovered bioagriculture, these words of wisdom will reveal a whole new world of sustainable living and the promise of higher, better-quality yields without synthetic, toxic chemicals.



# REVIEWS

## HEALING THE HURTS OF NATIONS: The Human Side of Globalisation by Palden Jenkins

Gothic Image, Glastonbury, UK, 2003  
ISBN 0-906362-62-8 (478pp tpb)  
Availability: Gothic Image Publications  
website, <http://www.gothicimage.co.uk>

The centre of gravity of history shifted with the events of 9-11. A "soulquake" registered on the psychological Richter scale, and the collective psyche, after another decade of tragedies through the 1990s, declared that enough was enough. But, says Palden Jenkins, the shift was surreptitious and was not necessarily reflected in the corporate media's interpretation for the masses.

Once a flower child of 1960s UK, Palden Jenkins has devoted his life to educational, therapeutic and community-oriented projects and has a keen interest in issues touching on geopolitics, history and spirituality. In his timely book, *Healing the Hurts of Nations*, he maintains that all we *still* need is love, but it's time for a reality check. The conflict in the world between neighbours, nations and religions is escalating as superpower and multinational domination reaches unsurpassed levels and the majority of people feel powerless, disaffected and exploited. But what has caused this present global crisis, and what can we do to overcome it?

Jenkins delves back into the roots of today's troubles, using the examples of Yugoslavia, Britain, Afghanistan and Iraq (as far back as Babylon and Sumer) to illustrate the rise and fall of civilisations. He analyses the psychology of nations and the undercurrents of latter-day globalisation, suggesting constructive ways in which a dehumanising process can be turned around for humanity's individual, social, cultural,

economic and spiritual benefit. It's time, he says, for grassroots leadership to bring in a new age of global community. Individuals need to clarify their true life purpose and develop the courage to implement it and make a real difference to the world. People of all cultures and faiths need to face their hurts and transform them without stepping back into the quagmire of hate and retribution. This vast conflict resolution session is a tall order, and Jenkins speculates on what we might yet need to go through to emerge from the challenges of the 21st century.

(You can access background material and discussion groups at the *Healing the Hurts...* web page, <http://www.palden.co.uk/hhn/>.)

## A HEALING LIGHT: The Extraordinary Healing Life of Mauricio Panisset

by Kimberly Panisset Curcio  
SelectBooks, NY, USA, 2002  
ISBN 1-59079-013-8 (186pp tpb)  
Availability: SelectBooks website,  
<http://www.selectbooks.com>

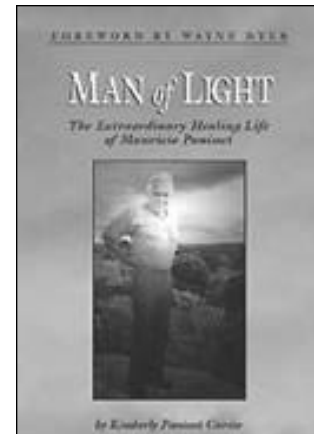
Brazil is renowned for its spiritual healing traditions, and one extraordinarily gifted healer was Mauricio Panisset. He was humble and shy, but sparks and flashes could be seen emanating from him and powerful loving vibrations could be felt during his healing work and in everyday interactions with this glowing "man of light".

The phenomenon of these lights first came to Mauricio when he was nine years old, and continued until his sudden death 54 years later. His amazing story is told with sensitivity by US-born Kimberly Panisset Curcio, who met and married Mauricio in his later years, both of them recognising that they had a deep soul connection over many life-

times. But what were these lights about?

Kimberly explains in *Man of Light* how Mauricio worked with his "Brother Lights", though he could never tell which, if any, would visit when he did his light energisations. The biblical figure Enoch would regularly come to him as a brilliant white light. And forget the influence of ETs and even lower astral plane spirits; we're talking Ultra Terrestrials, UTs, here—higher spiritual beings who work unseen in our midst for the forces of good, working parallel to our world. Via Kimberly, Mauricio passed on fascinating details about higher dimensional realms and confirmed that we *do* create our own reality. We plan our lives and experiences before we enter into each Earth incarnation, and we are totally responsible for our own lives and what happens to us.

Mauricio's story is life-affirming and transformational, and the power of his love and spirit seems to reverberate through these pages, keeping the legacy of his great healing work very much alive.



# REVIEWS



## MARY MAGDALENE: Christianity's Hidden Goddess by Lynn Picknett

Constable & Robinson, UK, 2003  
ISBN 1-84119-403-4 (295pp hc)  
Availability: Constable & Robinson Ltd,  
<http://www.constablerobinson.com>

Far from having been a prostitute—as the Church of Rome has asserted since at least the time of its patriarchs' vote for the four canonical Gospels at the 4th-century Council of Nicaea—the much maligned Mary Magdalene was most likely a black-skinned high priestess from Ethiopia.

Author Lynn Picknett points out that the Gnostic Gospels—the ones that the Church refused to include in the New Testament—regarded Mary Magdalene as the star attraction, Jesus calling her "The All" or "The Woman Who Knows All" and bestowing on her the title of "Apostle of the Apostles". As the Gnostics saw it, she was the true successor to Jesus the Messiah, and was even his sacred lover. Picknett, in piecing together the threads of evidence, doesn't discount the possibility that Mary Magdalene was already a high initiate in specific Egyptian and/or Hebrew esoteric religious sects. However, in the so-called Holy Lands, she was a threat to many, including Simon Peter, who went on to be the "rock" upon which the Church of Rome was founded.

Picknett soon found hints of a hidden drama at play, and has already touched on this in *The Turin Shroud: In Whose Image?* (co-authored with Clive Prince; see 2/24). Here she reveals more about Leonardo da Vinci's role in the "heretical" Johannite cult which followed John the Baptist, leader of the Mandaean sect. She uncovers the rivalry between Jesus and John the Baptist (which

only ended with John's suspicious death), and shows the codes alluding to it in several of da Vinci's paintings including his *Virgin of the Rocks* and *Last Supper* fresco.

The enigmatic sculptures and paintings of the "Black Madonna", found as far afield as France and Russia, also shed light on the 2,000-year-old tradition of Mary Magdalene as pagan priestess if not goddess. No wonder the Church fathers underplayed this powerful woman's role and practically wrote her out of the Gospels. Picknett's book is a radical reassessment of centuries of Church propaganda and deception, and puts Mary Magdalene back on top of her pedestal.

## X3, HEALING, ENTITIES, AND ALIENS by Adrian Dvir

Adrian Dvir, Israel, 2003  
ISBN 965-7269-00-8 (421pp tpb)  
Availability: Adrian Dvir, Rishon Lezion,  
Israel, tel +972 3 964 9440, fax +972 3  
967 7559, website <http://adriandvir.com>

Israeli computer engineer Adrian Dvir had his life turned around in 1992 when he had his first experience of being contacted by deceased family members and then others who had passed on but still wanted to help people on Earth. With some nurturing from sympathetic Israeli healers, his own abilities to heal people emerged. By 1994, his mind had opened up to a host of other entities from spiritual beings of light to extraterrestrials from other star systems. Incredibly, these beings claimed to be here to give assistance in healing, and many of them were medical and technical specialists from other worlds and dimensions.

Dvir found he could interact with these aliens telepathically as well as via his computer. One particular alien, X3, claimed to

be a doctor from the Sirius system. He transmitted mind-boggling information to Dvir about the diversity of life in the Universe, advanced spaceflight and medical technologies, and the capacity of the human mind for telepathy, channelling and contacting the spirit, even the "reincarnating core". The subject of reincarnation crops up regularly in this book, and not only within the human context: surprisingly, Dvir has worked with clients who had to be cleared of trauma induced in taking on human incarnation for the first time or resulting from a previous alien lifetime!

Dvir published this book in Hebrew in 1998, and it's taken five years for this English-language edition to be available. At least 50 clinics are now working with alien/astral medical teams in Israel, and Dvir has written a sequel, *Cured by Aliens*. This extraordinary material will open your eyes to a vast new world of possibilities. As for its potential to heal wounds in the Middle East, anything's possible.





# REVIEWS

## HOW CAN I USE HERBS IN MY DAILY LIFE? An Australian Practical Guide to Growing Culinary and Medicinal Herbs

by Isabell Shipard

David Stewart, Australia, 2003

ISBN 0-646-42248-0 (378pp l/f tpb)

Price: AUD\$39.00 + postage & handling:

\$8 in Australia, \$15 to NZ, \$24 elsewhere

Availability: Shipard's Herb Farm, PO Box

66, Nambour, Qld 4560, Australia, tel +61

(0)7 5441 1101, website [http://www.](http://www.herbsarespecial.com.au)

[herbsarespecial.com.au](http://www.herbsarespecial.com.au)

Over the last 25 years, Isabell Shipard has become something of a legend in the world of herbs, having made a life's work out of cultivating a wide variety of medicinal and culinary herbs, spices, fruits, rare edibles and seed varieties on her and husband Derrick's farm on the Sunshine Coast, Queensland, Australia, and distributing them nationally and internationally.

Isabell has also performed an educative role over the years, conducting tours, teaching courses and participating in a regular "Herb of the Week" radio segment.

At last, Isabell has distilled years of wisdom and experience into this comprehensive guidebook, *How Can I Use Herbs in My Daily Life?*, which documents over 500 herbs, spices and edible plants and gives practical advice for growing them and using them in cooking and in medicine. She starts with a detailed introduction, "Herbs Are Special", covering the history and medicinal benefits of herbs, how to use herbs for health and harmony, and hints on propagating them. Then she launches into her "A to Y" list of plants, both Australian natives and introduced species from acerola cherry to

yucca, providing for each entry a detailed description including botanical name, notes on constituents and medicinal uses, advice on culinary uses and numerous recipes.

There are b&w illustrations throughout and several sections of colour plates, making this a must-have for your reference section or kitchen cookbook collection. You'll discover herbs and spices you never knew existed!

## WHEN THE BODY SAYS NO:

### The Cost of Hidden Stress

by Gabor Maté

Scribe Publications, Australia, 2003 (first

pub. by Alfred A. Knopf, Canada, 2003)

ISBN 1-920769-01-3 (306pp tpb)

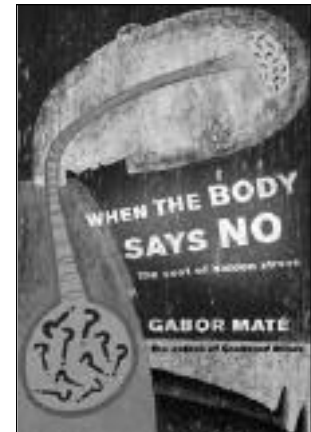
Availability: Scribe Publications website, <http://www.scribepub.com.au>

Stress can affect our health on a variety of levels, but if it's generated from deep and subtle programming then it can become part of what we think is our real self, particularly if such negative programming occurs at an early age. If we're in denial of strong emotions or psychological stress, if we're prevented from learning how to say no to stress in our lives, our bodies may end up saying no for us and bringing on all sorts of chronic illnesses, even cancer.

In *When the Body Says No*, Canadian family physician, psychotherapist and media medico Dr Gabor Maté utilises case studies to demonstrate the relationship between negative emotional and behavioural patterns and illness. His many years in clinical practice have led him to conclude that knowledge of how this causal relationship works is essential for setting the healing process in motion and maintaining good health. The ancients taught that the body and mind are one; and Dr Maté refers to the research of today's

frontier scientists like Dr Candace Pert who have shown that biological and psychological activity are not independent, that each is part of a "super-system whose components can no longer be thought of as separate or autonomous mechanisms".

Yet even the label "psychoneuroimmunoendocrinology", the study of the interrelated functions of the organs and glands that regulate our behaviour and psychological balance, doesn't take in the full expanse of the human biofield, nor notions of soul, consciousness and spirit. Nevertheless, Dr Maté extends the parameters by examining the "biology" of such factors as relationships, loss and belief systems. He leaves us armed with a list of "the seven As of healing": acceptance, awareness, anger (expressed responsibly), autonomy, attachment (in seeking loving healing connections), assertion and affirmation. He encourages us to value our own creative self and affirm our connection with the Universe, with all that is, on our path to healing.



# REVIEWS



## THE WAR ON FREEDOM: The 9/11 Conspiracies

by Jim Marrs

ARES Publishing, USA, 2003  
ISBN 0-9727131-1-5 (394pp tpb)  
Availability: Author's website,  
<http://www.JimMarrs.com>

The people of the United States have been living under a State of Emergency since President George W. Bush made the official declaration three days after 9-11. With this declaration, says Jim Marrs, Bush made public the "shadow government" of unelected officials and appointees who can determine the future of this "former republic". He warns that the US government's new War on Terrorism is more a War on



Freedom—a state of siege in which individual freedom supposedly needs to be given away in the hope of being protected.

Jim Marrs is a seasoned investigative reporter/author (*The Plot that Killed JFK; Rule by Secrecy*, see 8/01) and is not one to use the "conspiracy" word lightly—but with the 9-11 attacks, smell a conspiracy he does. In examining how it got this far, he looks at the creation and evolution of the US national security state and how its apparatus could have covered up a secret agenda aimed at changing the geopolitical landscape to ensure access to oil, gas and drug supplies.

The mainstream press has failed in its duty to follow up the loose ends surrounding the events of 9-11, so Marrs takes up the cause by highlighting the unresolved issues and questions concerning the events—e.g., the eyewitness accounts of bomb detonations through the towers prior to their implosion, the anomalies concerning the lax airport security that would allow so-called terrorists to board aircraft, and the inconsistencies over passenger lists as published by the FBI.

Marrs takes a long, hard look at what is happening in the USA today. With several thousand people of Arab extraction in prison on no grounds, and with the passing of the

draconian Patriot Act, the future for freedom doesn't look promising. It's happened before, and it's happening all over again as the powerful forces that stand to benefit from fear and war make their next frightening moves on the Grand Chessboard. In his info-packed book that covers events in the lead-up to the War on Iraq, Marrs urges us to wake up to what's really going on.

## OUR MEDIA, NOT THEIRS: The Democratic Struggle Against Corporate Media

by Robert W. McChesney and  
John Nichols

Seven Stories Press, USA, 2002  
ISBN 1-58322-549-8 (140pp pb)  
Availability: Seven Stories Press website,  
<http://www.sevenstories.com>

The time is ripe for structural reform of the corporate media if democracy is to have a future in the United States, argue Robert McChesney and John Nichols in *Our Media, Not Theirs*. And while the authors acknowledge that there is already a growing movement against an increasingly undemocratic mass media—as seen in a strengthening alternative media and the power of the Internet—they say it is imperative that citizens get involved in debate about media policy and force decision-makers in Congress and the FCC to replace the corporate media—their media—with media that serve the people—our media.

McChesney is a research professor in the Institute of Communications Research at the University of Illinois and the author of *Rich Media, Poor Democracy*, and Nichols is Washington correspondent for *The Nation* and author of *Jews for Buchanan*. This edition is a fully revised and updated version of their 2000 book, *It's the Media, Stupid*, and includes a broad-picture new foreword by Prof. Noam Chomsky, while retaining the original forewords by feminist writer Barbara Ehrenreich and consumer activist Ralph Nader. The updates include brief analyses of the 9-11 attacks, the Enron collapse and the passing of the Patriot Act, and the corporate media's lamentable failure to provide a free flow of information and commentary on these watershed events.

The authors summarise what's happening stateside and worldwide in view of today's media globalisation trend, and give some media awareness hope with recent examples from East Timor and Venezuela. To rescue media freedom, the authors have a multi-point plan that includes applying existing anti-monopoly laws, establishing hearings to determine fair media ownership regulations across all sectors, and decriminalising local TV news. It's an uphill battle, but a truly free press is essential for democracy.



# REVIEWS

## BEHIND THE WAR ON TERROR

by Nafeez Mosaddeq Ahmed

Clairview Books, UK, 2003

ISBN 1-902636-44-9 (346pp tpb)

Availability: Clairview Books website,  
<http://www.clairviewbooks.com>

Regular readers should recall the extract and review we ran in NEXUS 9/05 of Nafeez Mosaddeq Ahmed's *The War on Freedom*, his analysis of events surrounding 9/11. For his new book, *Behind the War on Terror*, Ahmed investigates the secret history of Western—particularly Anglo-American—manoeuvres in the Middle East since the fall of the Ottoman Empire and up to today's US-led War on Iraq.



Ahmed argues that the so-called War on Terror has roots traceable to the immediate post-WWII period, its political climate characterised by US planning for the global expansion of its military might and economic power, which was essential for securing access to foreign oil and gas resources. But for US (and UK) neocolonialism to have legitimacy, a global threat had to be manufactured to justify military interventions—which is why the US needs bogeymen like Osama bin Laden and Saddam Hussein.

Ahmed's perceptive analysis is divided into two parts: the 1991 Gulf War Massacre and the history and strategic context of Western state terrorism; and Bleeding the Gulf, which looks at the social and economic effects of UN sanctions on Iraq, the false pretext for war over supposed WMD, anthrax terrorist attacks on US soil and the corruption of human rights discourse.

Ahmed prepared most of his book before the US/UK invasion of Iraq, but includes a substantial postscript written in late April. He reports on the ruthless US control of information and routine killing of non-embedded journalists, the huge number of civilian casualties caused by Operation *Shock and Awe*, US failure to protect civilians and provide humanitarian assistance, and bribing of senior military and administration figures in Saddam Hussein's inner circle to effect the "regime change". He

concludes that the war for the "liberation" of Iraq was "nothing less than a brazen colonial enterprise, fundamentally opposed to elementary humanitarian principles, and motivated by longstanding imperial values".

Ahmed's work, punctuated with published and rare documentary evidence, is an awesome critique of democracies gone mad.

## REEFER MADNESS and Other Tales from the American Underground

by Eric Schlosser

Allen Lane/Penguin Books, 2003 (also pub. by Houghton Mifflin Co., USA, 2003)  
ISBN 0-713-99658-7 (310pp tpb)

Availability: Penguin Group website,  
<http://www.penguin.com>

History has shown that the more something is prohibited, the more it thrives in the underground—the black economy. In *Reefer Madness...*, award-winning journalist Eric Schlosser, a correspondent for *Atlantic Monthly* and author of *Fast Food Nation*, focuses on three areas of economic activity that have burgeoned in the underground, especially in the last three decades: marijuana, migrant workers and pornography.

Certainly, the American Prohibition era, 1920–33, showed what happens when a major commodity, alcohol, is made illegal. So while there's nothing new about black market economies, they have undergone a huge expansion in the US (and elsewhere) in recent decades. As Schlosser sees it, this can be attributed in part to the hippie counterculture of the late 1960s meeting up with the anti-tax movement of the late 1970s—both groups sharing a voice in their disdain for the government and defiance of the Internal Revenue Service. The rollercoaster hasn't stopped since. In the post-industrial society where more money is spent on marijuana than on tobacco, where migrant worker smuggling is a billion-dollar business that props up the US economy, and where porn has gone from an obscure deviant racket to mass popular entertainment, we can make sense of Schlosser's proposition that the mainstream and underground economies are two sides of the same coin.

There are some truly tragic and cautionary tales told in *Reefer Madness*—originally an essay, now expanded into book form. Schlosser laments that American society has become so at odds with itself that it's "like a personality beginning to decompose". The harshness of its laws and the penalties in these three areas—sex, drugs and cheap labour—are symptomatic of a much larger problem affecting this supposedly great nation. Schlosser concludes that black markets, while they'll always be with us, will fade in importance if only public and private morality can be consistent.

# REVIEWS



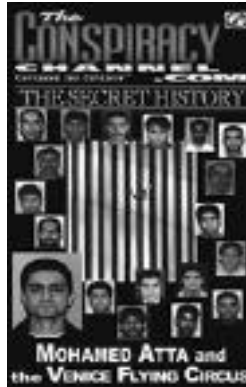
## VIDEOS

Reviewed by Duncan Roads

### MOHAMMED ATTA AND THE VENICE FLYING CIRCUS

Produced by Mad Cow Press/Daniel Hopsicker, 2002 (60mins, PAL/NTSC)  
Distributor: Mad Cow Press, USA, tel 1-800 556 2012 (USA/Canada only), website <http://www.MadCowProd.com>

Producer Daniel Hopsicker is a highly regarded researcher amongst those seeking to expose the many links to state-sponsored terrorism among governments, law enforcement agencies, intelligence communities and organised criminals.



This video focuses on the sleepy retirement community of Venice, Florida, where three of the four 9-11 "terrorist pilots" apparently learned to fly. Of particular interest are the two flight schools, both owned by Dutch nationals and having ties to the Mob and elements of the intelligence community. It becomes very clear that the FBI and mainstream media have written out key pieces of evidence on the activities of the terrorist hijackers, and no wonder.

It is obvious that any mainstream media attention on the contents of this film would cause a public outcry for a drastic rewrite of 9-11 history. For instance, it seems the hijackers did *not* plan to commit suicide, and certainly didn't exhibit any signs of Islamic fundamentalism. In fact, we learn of *three* Mohammed Attas, begging the question: just who were these "terrorists"? And then the same names from Iran-Contra, the Mena drugs conduit, the Vince Foster murder, and so on, keep popping up.

If you have any friends left who still think terrorist hijackers pulled off 9-11 without US foreknowledge, show them this video! May I also strongly urge readers interested in quality research to visit Dan's website (<http://www.MadCowProd.com>) and read his many articles posted there.

### VEDIC MATHEMATICS FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM

#### Part One: The Magic of Nine

Presented by Jain

Produced by Global Vision International, NSW, Australia (135mins, PAL VHS)  
Distributor: Magic Square Studio, 50 Left Bank Road, Mullumbimby Creek NSW 2482, Australia, tel/fax +61 (02) 6684 4409, <http://www.jainmathmagics.com>

For as long as I have known of Jain, he has been teaching and spreading the word on numbers. Magic Squares, Atomic Art, Sacred Geometry and Vedic Mathematics are just some of the subjects he researches, lectures on and writes about.

In this video, Jain focuses on Vedic Mathematics (also see Science News this issue), and after some brief background on its history he uses example after example, taking the viewer through most of the basic *sutras*, or word formulas. Above all, he succeeds in letting viewers understand a subject that most reject as too "hard".

If you've ever wanted to become a human biocalculator, then this is for you!

## Video/DVD

Reviewed by Duncan Roads

### ALIEN IMPLANTS: Dr Roger Leir

Presented by William J. Birnes

Produced by Stargate Productions, William J. Birnes and Dr Roger Leir, USA  
Distributor: Dr Roger Leir, 253 Lombard St #B, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360, USA, website <http://www.alienscalpel.com>

A truly fascinating interview with a former sceptic and medical doctor, Dr Roger Leir, who has become the world's leading authority on the surgical removal of non-terrestrial implants from humans.

A lot of people I meet can handle the idea that UFOs are real and that extraterrestrials exist, but most of them would roll their eyes at the mention of alien-sourced implants being found in humans.

So, folks, if you've ever been in doubt about this, you had better see this video/DVD. It has great close-ups of the process of surgical removal and of the implants themselves. These implants have been analysed and show most remarkable properties. For instance, most implants need to be stored in serum from the patient after removal, or else they "dissolve"; many have demonstrated highly magnetic or ultraviolet properties and effects; and most of those tested have shown isotopes of elements that could not have originated on this planet! Highly recommended viewing.





# REVIEWS

## MUSIC

Reviewed by Richard Giles

### AFRICAN PLAYGROUND

by various artists

Putumayo Kids, USA, 2003 (44mins)  
Distributors: **Aust**—MRA, tel (07) 3849 6020; **UK**—Pinnacle Imports, tel 01689 870622; **USA**—Putumayo, tel 1888 7888 8629, <http://www.putumayo.com>

This is the fourth album of music for children in the Putumayo World Playground series. Playground albums are designed to involve children in the world of music, teaching them about the country where each piece originates. Each song is accompanied by notes, history and background on the country. And all the music is fun and exciting listening. Artists come from Benin, Senegal, South Africa, Kenya, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Congo and more. High-quality, educational, fun music with profits going to a Putumayo cultural learning fund.

### MUSIC OF THE NILE

by various artists

ARC Music Prodn, UK, 2003 (79mins)  
Distributors: **UK**—ARC, tel +44 (0)1342 328567, <http://www.arcmusic.co.uk>

David Fanshawe is an internationally renowned collector of music and recorder of ethnic sounds, a producer, photographer, speaker and more. His work has won awards all around the world. He began recording indigenous music in the Middle East in 1966, and rose to fame with his choral work, *African Sanctus*, released in the 1970s. This ARC Music release contains the original African field recordings made between 1969 and 1975, and comprises rare and unedited music samples collected along the River Nile before the *Sanctus* release. A very special collectors' album.

### PACIFICA PIA

by Pia

New World Music, UK, 2003 (46mins)  
Distributors: **Australia**—New World Music, tel (02) 9565 4522, website <http://www.newworldmusic.com.au>; **UK**—New World Music, tel 01986 781682; **Germany**—MCC, tel 4102 898202; **USA**—New World Music, tel (303) 415 1040

This is Pia's third CD after two releases from 1999, when she won accolades for her *Benediction Moon*. Pia has a stunningly pure voice, and she dedicates her album to Srila Sivarama Swami, her teacher. The use of piano, guitar, djembe, accordion, cello and flute go with a modernised devotional-style song, combining older traditions with

the contemporary to produce a journey of love and hope through the purity of sound. My favourites are "Guiding Star" and "Lord of the Universe". A very inspiring album.

### EAST TO WEST

by Baka Beyond

Narada World, USA, 2002 (49mins)  
Distributors: **Aust**—MRA, tel (07) 3849 6020; **USA**—Narada, tel (414) 961 8350, website <http://www.narada.com>

Baka Beyond released its first album of fusion pigmy Celtic music, titled *Spirit of the Forest*, back in 1993. *The Meeting Pool* followed two years later. Musicians Martin Cradick, Su Hart, Paddy Le Mercier and others have long collaborated to promote Baka pigmy music from the Cameroon forests. This first-class album brings together players from Senegal, Ghana and Cameroon, including a group of Baka from Lupé. Royalties from the Baka songs go to the Global Music Exchange to fund Baka projects. This is an exciting musical feast, combining African rhythms and Celtic reels.

### ZABUCA

by Johannes Linstead

Real Music, USA, 2002 (45mins)  
Distributors: **Aust/UK**—New World Music; **USA**—Real Music, tel (415) 331 8273, <http://www.realmusic.com>

The title of Johannes Linstead's fourth album since *Sol Luna Tierra* translates as "shake-up"—which is perfect for an infectious Spanish and flamenco collection from the land of Gypsies. Johannes' guitar style on *Zabuca* ranges from quiet and seductive, playful little pieces to passionate, joyful and bold Latin sounds. Of particular interest is a two-part song titled "Echoes of the Forest". These pieces combine a quiet classical guitar manner with modern flamenco moods. An album of fine performances from a master of modern *nouveau flamenco*.

